

# Transportation *Digest*

Fall, 2002

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Rhode Island Department of Transportation Newsletter

## ***New RIDOT Maintenance Headquarters Facility opens in Warwick***

Governor Lincoln Almond and the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) cut a red ribbon on a new maintenance building in Warwick on November 12. The new 73,500 square foot facility, which sits on 7.3 acres of land, was completed on time and under budget.

With everything under one roof, the new building will provide more space than the old, out-dated, and inefficiently laid out maintenance headquarters in Providence.

“Over \$1 million in health, safety, ADA, and physical improvements would have been needed at the old site, as well as an

also be more centralized for the State.

“This new facility is a cost-effective and efficient replacement for the Department’s old maintenance facility,” said Governor Lincoln Almond. “It also provides an appropriate work environment for RIDOT’s dedicated employees.”

The construction project was undertaken when the Narragansett Bay Commission (NBC) acquired

The new maintenance facility, dedicated to those who died serving the State and RIDOT, will house the following:

- Administrative offices, including personnel and business office
- Engineering and permitting services



**MAINTENANCE CLASS PICTURE 2002:** Staff of the Motorpool, Headquarters, and Bridge sections, outside the old Cavalry St. building just before moving to Warwick. Chucky Lussier of the Lincoln Facility captured the photo of the combined group, now called Highway & Bridge Maintenance. Views of the new building are at right.

additional \$1.1 million in capitol improvements already scheduled for the Arline St. building which was part of the original maintenance complex,” said William D. Ankner, Ph.D., RIDOT’s Director. “This site will be cleaner, more professional, and definitely be a staff morale booster.”

The new offices provide easy access to Routes 1, 2, and 37, as well as I-95 and I-295. Routine and winter maintenance will

the old maintenance facility for NBC’s combined sewer and storm drain overflow tunnel project. NBC paid RIDOT \$3 million for RIDOT’s old buildings and land. RIDOT used these funds, plus an additional \$3.7 million to cover the costs of this new facility.

“The Lincoln Avenue site was already owned by the State and was not on the Warwick tax rolls,” said Ankner.



- Bridge inspectors and bridge repair staff
- Automotive services
- Guardrail and fence staff
- Landscape and beautification staff
- Carpenter
- Plumber
- Inside storage for 30 vehicles
- Traffic Maintenance personnel – sign shop, electricians
- Modern electrical, sign and carpenter shops with adequate ventilation and safety equipment
- Men’s and women’s locker room facilities

The contractor for this project was E.W. Burman of Warwick.

## ***RIDOT - More than just roads and bridges***

The federal government's Transportation Enhancement Program, founded by the late Senator John Chafee in the early 1990's, provides funding to local communities for non-traditional transportation improvements.

Thanks to the late Senator's vision and leadership, RIDOT has been able to partner with local cities and towns by providing funding for these projects that increase mobility, protect the human and natural environment, and preserve and increase the livability of communities.

Previous accomplishments of the program are many, yet a few that come to mind are the upgrades to the Westerly and Kingston Train Stations, and the restoration of Block Island's Rebecca at the Well Statue.

Two recent projects that showcased the program's success were the Gateway Park Enhancement Project and the restoration of the historic Woonsocket Depot. Gateway Park is a recently transformed six-acre public park along the Great Road Historic District, while the Woonsocket Depot is a historic Victorian-style train station that serves as headquarters for the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission.

The Depot is currently undergoing renovations that will enable it to better house the Commission, as well as a RIDOT archaeological repository and a mini-terminal for RIPTA.

Two other recent accomplishments of the Enhancement Program were geared toward pedestrian mobility improvements - the Riverpoint Enhancement Project in West Warwick and the Sidewalk Improvement Project in Warren.

The West Warwick project focused on pedestrian and vehicular mobility improvements around the John F. Horgan Elementary School, while the Warren project centered on pedestrian mobility improvements in the city's downtown area. The Warren project was further expanded by an additional \$1 million secured by Congressman Patrick Kennedy.

Further delivering our message that we're more than just roads and bridges, we look forward to partnering with other cities and towns for their upcoming Enhancement Program projects.



**RIDOT Director William D. Ankner**

They include: the restoration of the Plum Beach Lighthouse in North Kingstown;

the Hope Street Sidewalk Improvement Project in Bristol (4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade route); and the establishment of a new Welcome Center on Route 295 North in Lincoln.

Other anticipated projects are the rehabilitations to the North and Southeast Lighthouses on Block Island and the restoration to Newport's Cliff Walk. RIDOT will also provide enhancement funding to Providence for the addition of interpretive signage for the Woonasquatucket River Heritage Trail, and to South Kingstown for the creation of a historic and educational park, known as Tefft Historical Park, that will provide a link to the South County Bike Path through its bike and hiking trails.



**A RAILROAD CAR marks the location of the West Warwick pedestrian improvements near the John F. Horgan Elementary School.**



**A PARK RANGER shows visitors around following ceremonies at the Woonsocket Depot, now headquarters for the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission.**



## Career Service Awards September 2001-July 2002

### Thirty Year Presentation

Carol A. Adams-Design; Anthony Andreozzi-Construction; James J. Black-Survey; Robert T. Ciccone-Highway Maintenance Lincoln;

Medeiros-Highway Maintenance Portsmouth; Grant W. Ogren-Highway Maintenance Hope Valley; Joseph P. Schall Jr.-TMC; Brian F. Walsh-Highway Maintenance Portsmouth.



**RIDOT STAFF HONORED for 30 years of service.**

Philip D. Ferrara-Highway Maintenance Bridge; Mary A. Giuliano-Financial Management; Joseph Kerns-Survey; Jacquelyn T. Lepore-Construction; Savino A. Marfeo-Construction; David Ondak-Highway Maintenance Cherry Hill; Carl A. Passarelli-Intermodal Planning; Barbara Petrarca-Engineering/Environmental; Joanne M. Powe-Policy/Planning; Alan Tarasenko-Highway Maintenance Bridge.

### Twenty-Five Year Presentation

Michael L. Albanese-Finals; John M. Borek-Fleet Operations; Angela M. Camparone-Highway Maintenance Headquarters; Roger E. Costa-Highway Maintenance Belleville; Lenore J. Duffy -Construction; Wilfred P. Farland-Highway Maintenance Midstate; Kenneth F. Fennessy-Survey; Patricia A. Hagen-

Alfred Tarantino-Construction; Janice M. Ward-Legal; Raymond E. Wilmarth-MIS.

### Fifteen Year Presentation

Muraina A. Akinfolarin-Construction; Mazen M. Alsabe-Highway Maintenance Bridge; David J. Arundel-Construction; Lauriston D. Ashe Sr.-Highway Maintenance E. Providence; Joseph J. Beirola-Highway Maintenance Portsmouth; John Braz-Highway Maintenance E.

Providence; Joseph M. Calamita-Highway Maintenance Hope Valley; Ralph Capaldi-Materials; Lori A. Cassin-Chief Engineers Office; Georgette K. Chahine-Design; Clifford J. Cherry Jr.-Construction; Louis E. Deciantis Jr.-Highway Maintenance Bridge; Paul Delcioppio-Construction; Stephen A. Devine-Intermodal Planning; Bruce R. DiTraglia-Highway Maintenance Lincoln; Richard C. Dowding-Highway Maintenance

Headquarters; Raymond P. Dulac-Materials; Kazem Farhoumand-Design; Robert Ferrara-Construction; Philip A. Fielding-Highway

Maintenance Headquarters; Marilyn A. Flanders-Construction; Dennis Flynn-Survey; Brendan J. Fogarty-Community Affairs; Ian H. Frament-Materials; Stephen R. Gerundio-Highway Maintenance Traffic; Richard S. Guerra - Materials; Kenneth L. Hamilton Jr.-Highway Maintenance Belleville; Mark S. Jamiel-Highway Maintenance Portsmouth; Phillip Kydd-Administrative Services; Michael Lataille-Highway Maintenance Midstate; John M. Laurino-Construction; Robert F. Lavallee-Highway Maintenance Glocester; John C. Lonardo-Construction; Janis E. Loiselle-Policy & Planning; Getachew G. Marian-Design; David P. Martone-Intermodal Planning; Emanuel R. Martins-Highway Maintenance Midstate; Norman P. Marzano-Construction; Ivan P. McTaggart-Design; Joseph P. Morgan-Highway Maintenance Westerly; Garry M. Moore-Highway Maintenance Scituate; Frederick C. Morgan-Highway Maintenance Scituate; Arlene Nelson-Highway Maintenance Bridge; Vincent J. Palumbo-Design; Joan C.



**RIDOT STAFF HONORED for 25 years of service.**

Paryani-Construction; George P. Pursche-Highway Maintenance Bridge; Charles V. Ricci-Construction; Wayne Rush-Construction; Raymond Scolardi-Construction; Paul W. Sweet-Highway Maintenance Hope Valley; Robert J. Sweet Jr.-Highway Maintenance Bridge; Jeffrey Tefft-Highway Maintenance Belleville; Gary M. Tella-Construction; John K. White-MIS.

### Ten Year Presentation

Terry Andoscia, Sr.-Construction; Paul J. Boudreau-Highway Maintenance Scituate; John J. Carter-Audit; John J. Cullen-Highway Maintenance Traffic; Fred S. Currier-Audit; Anthony J. DeRensis-Construction; Vera H. DiLuglio - Legal; Pasquale DiGregorio-Design; George E. Hart-Construction; Margaret A. Hebert-Design; John J. Iglizzi-Legal; Sandra R. Nadeau-Construction; Robert J. Pavia, Jr.-Design; Joseph P. Pemantell, Jr.-Audit; William M. Pratt-Construction; Matthew H. Quinlan-Construction; Bruce Santa Anna-Construction; Robert Spagnolo-Survey.



**RIDOT EMPLOYEES HONORED for 20 years of service.**

Golderesi-Construction; Cynthia C. Levesque-TMC; Kenneth J. Machado-Highway Maintenance Portsmouth; Wayne A. Matteson-Highway Maintenance Midstate; Ronald J.

# RIDOT plans will go digital in December

By Steven Kut

Most of us at RIDOT headquarters have seen Mel DiPaolo in the Plan Room in action when we make an "out of the blue" inquiry about a possible contract or plat that might have been done in 1955, when the road name was different from what it is now.



## ONLINE PlanGIS Presentation

Although Mel is able to get us the document in good time, he has been worried about the state of the Plan Room. So Mel, along with others in the Department, initiated the Plan Library Archival Numbering System (PLANS) project.

As a result of the PLANS project, beginning some time in December, you will be able to go to the Plan Room, ask to use the counter PC, and find any document in the Plan Room using information you know about the document such as: Document Number (contract number, plat number, bridge number, signal number), Major Road Name, and much more.

In your office, if you have a PC on the network and Internet Explorer, you'll be able to use a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) map to find the road area you are interested in and see what documents are available from the Plan Room.

And not just Plan Room documents. You will have access to documents kept in the Plan Room, in the Maintenance old building as well as in Bridge Inspection. Hopefully more will come later.

Each division will receive a couple of CDs that contain a movie showing you how to use maps/GIS, or what we call PlanGIS, to navigate through the State and see various contracts and plats that have been scanned for your use. These scans can be plotted (if you have access to a plotter) or printed on small 8-1/2" by

11" black and white sheets.

Even if you don't see the 'movie,' PlanGIS is simple to use. Just launch Internet Explorer and enter <http://ridotplanap/plangis/>. The rest is self-explanatory.

As you will notice, the pages in PlanGIS look an awful lot like the RIDOT public web site, because eventually PlanGIS will move to become part of the public site. Concerns on use of the scanned im-



## OLD-FASHIONED flat files in the RIDOT Plan Room.

ages remain, due to the sensitive information they contain. Their use will be limited in a plan being worked on now.

The team working to bring you the Digital Documents and PlanGIS under the direction of Chief Engineers Wendall Flanders and James Capaldi includes: Mel DiPaolo, Nami Moghadam, Mary Gelardi, Steve Kut, John White and many other hard working colleagues of yours, along with the Department's consultant PlanGraphics. Please forward your feedback to Steve Kut at [skut@dot.stat.ri.us](mailto:skut@dot.stat.ri.us) or extension 4485.

## Web site honored

RIDOT'S web site was among five honored by the Federal Highway Administration. Recognized as the top traffic information sites in the United States were RIDOT's site; the Houston (TX) TranStar web site; the Oregon DOT Trip Check web site; and the GCM Travel web site, a cooperative effort of the Gary-Chicago-Milwaukee priority corridor partners: the Illinois, the Indiana and the Wisconsin DOT's. The winners were recognized at the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) board of directors meeting in October.

## Clearing the highway

On August 21, Maintenance workers guided an injured swan from I-95. The Transportation Management Center captured the effort.





## New technology is providing safety, savings for Traffic Signals

By John Brownell

RIDOT's Maintenance Division takes care of 1,100 miles of State Highway. It also maintains traffic signals on state highways. Signals are located in 35 of Rhode Island's 39 cities and towns.

There are about 700 intersections or hazardous locations with traffic signals. Each one has multiple traffic signal heads. There are about 5,600 signal heads, which include about 17,000 lamps, on our State highways.

Earlier this year, the Division began to upgrade traffic signals using a new technology, light emitting diode (LED) lamps, which provide important benefits, most importantly motorist safety.

LED's are more visible in direct sunlight. LED's will reduce the number of times

signals will be out, due to their five to 10 year life expectancy. Even when a LED fails, normally only one string of diodes will fail. Institute of Transportation Engineers safety standards are met until 20 percent of diodes fail.

Safety is also a concern when RIDOT staff is changing bulbs at an intersection. With a longer life expectancy, LED's will reduce the frequency of exposure when servicing traffic lights.

LED's also reduce electricity usage. Their power consumption is 10 percent of that used by incandescent lamps.

According to the manufacturer's literature, the payback period is two to three years. This is an environmental benefit, and will reduce RIDOT operating costs.

Since LED's need replacement far less frequently than existing lamps, the use of LEDs will allow better allocation of RIDOT staff.

Maintenance staff has concentrated installation in the western and southern parts of Rhode Island. About 130 intersections, close to 20 percent of the total, have been upgraded. Work will continue until all traffic signals are addressed.



Mike Hebert of Environmental Engineering, left, and Tom Queenan of Intermodal Planning, right, were bicyclists for Team Purple.



Jim O'Connor of Real Estate was a runner for Team Orange.



Lori Capaldi of Intermodal Planning helped coordinate the efforts of the RIDOT teams.



Henry Chango, left, of Finals, and David Amalfitano, right, of Materials, were paddlers for Team Purple.



Mike DeRotto of Highway Design was a runner for Team Purple.

### Two RIDOT teams finish Blackstone River Valley Greenway Challenge

RIDOT had two teams finish the 2002 Blackstone River Valley Greenway Challenge in late September. A total of 65 teams competed in the race, which required bicycling, running, and paddling to complete the 46.25 mile course.

Team Orange's Ed Szymanski, Jim O'Connor, Steve Kut, Mike Mitchell, Bob Rocchio, Mary Gelardi, and Andrew Peckham came in 20<sup>th</sup> place. Team Purple's, Ivan McTaggart, Mike DeRotto, Mike Scalzi, Tom Queenan, Kelly Presley, David Amalfitano, Henry Chango, and Mike Hebert came in 31<sup>st</sup> place.



Ed Szymanski of Environmental Engineering was a cyclist for Team Orange.



Steve Kut of GIS was a paddler for Team Orange.

## RIDOT hosts 78th Annual Materials Conference

RIDOT hosted the 78th Annual Northeast States Materials Engineers Association (NESMEA) meeting and the Northeast Asphalt User-Producer Group (NEAUPG) meeting in late October in Newport.

The meetings were of interest to those involved in design, construction, materials, maintenance and research. Specific topics of discussion for NESMEA were Pavement Markings, MMFX Steel, Corrosion in Steel, Metallizing, High Mast Poles, Pavement Smoothness, HDPE Pipe, Resilient Modulus Testing, Self-Compacting Concrete, Perpetual Pavements, Cracking in Asphalts, Engineered Asphalts and Friction Courses.

The NEAUPG meeting discussed topics related to New Asphalt Initiatives, Designs, Computer Models, Developments,

and Moisture Sensitivity Tests; Use of ARAN; Gyratory Compactors; Plant Qual-

ity Control; DTT Effectiveness; Emission Control in HMA; Evaluation of Dynamic Modulus Equipment and Superpave for Low-Volume Roads.



**NESMEA CONFERENCE:** Mark Felag, Materials Chief, left, and Wendall Flanders, Chief Engineer/Operations, right, at a NESMEA presentation.

## Changes in Incentive In-Service Training Program

All employees successfully completing an approved four-credit curriculum receive a salary increase. There are two programs:

1. Employees hired before July 1, 2001, who complete the program, will be granted a one-step pay increment above the current base step, or if at the maximum of the grade, a pay increment equal in amount to the last step in the pay grade. This amount will be retained by the employee annually, for their career in state

service, unless they choose to opt-out and into the new program (see #3), or leave state service and later return (see #2).

2. Employees hired on or after July 1, 2001, who complete the program will be granted a sum determined in the same manner as in #1, but will receive this sum for only four years. For three years thereafter, the incentive award will be terminated, and no incentive requests can be made during these three years. After the three year period ends, employees may again request courses for incentive credit, but not courses previously approved for incentive credit, nor those similar to them. This cycle may continue throughout the employee's career with the State.

3. Employees hired before July 1, 2001, wishing to opt-out of the program described in #1 and into the program described in #2, may complete an opt-out/opt-in form available in the Department of Transportation's Office of Human Resources. The incentive award must be terminated before a course can be requested for credit under the new program. Courses approved in the original program, and courses similar to them, cannot be taken again in the new program. The employee cannot change back to the original program once the opt-out/opt-in choice is made.

Rules for both programs are available through the Office of Human Resources.

## Snowplow Rodeo

The annual Snow Plow Rodeo was held in September, and RIDOT competitors performed well in five events. They are:

Pre-Trip Inspection - Third Place to Sean Egan and Gary DiPina of the Gloucester Facility;

Backing With Compressor - First Place went to Brian Lane and Gordon Read of the Lincoln Facility;

Spotter Backing - First Place to Jeff Tefft and Scott Decastro of the Belleville Facility;

Plow Slalom - First Place to Brian Lane and Gordon Read of the Lincoln Facility;

Road Kill Toss - First Place to Sean Egan and Gary DiPina of the Gloucester Facility; Third Place to David Squillante and Kenneth Alexander of the East Providence Facility.

## New hires and retirees

New hires at the Department of Transportation since the summer have included Linda L. Krajewski of Legal, Sandra M. Raposa of Federal Programs, Lauren M. Soper and Elizabeth Swart both of External Audit.

New retirees included Paul O. McEnanly of Traffic Design, Richard Levesque and Stephen DeSesto of Highway Maintenance, and Joseph Heron of Real Estate.



**THANKS:** Cynthia Levesque, ITS Rhode Island Chapter President, presents an award to Melisa Ridenour, FHWA Administrator on behalf of the Chapter and all her efforts to promote ITS and the Chapter in Rhode. In November, Ridenour was promoted to AASHTO Division Engineer, Eastern Federal Lands, in Virginia.



## Summer visit to the Parthenon

Despina Metakos of Traffic Engineering often visits relatives in Greece on her summer vacation. This year she brought Bob Rocchio, also of Traffic Engineering, along with her. They are seen here at the Parthenon. Despina provided some information on this historic treasure.

The Parthenon was built to house a huge gold and ivory (chryselephantine) statue of the goddess Athena, patron of the polis of Athens. The polis—or city-state—was the Greeks’ distinctive political formation—a walled town with surrounding villages and countryside, and ideally politically independent of its neighbors. The high place of a polis - the acropolis - was the site of shrines to locally important deities.

As they grew more sophisticated, Greek builders began introducing optical refinements, variations from geometrically true forms, which created visual illusions to enhance the gracefulness of large structures. Optical refinements reached their extreme in the Parthenon, where not one “straight” line was exactly straight.

To the eye, a vertical column appears to be narrower in the middle than at either the top or the bottom. Thus, each exterior Parthenon column has a slight bulge in the middle. The upper diameter of each column is slightly narrower than its base diameter, a practice called entasis, and the columns slant inward, so that they would meet, if they were extended a mile into the sky. The four outside corner columns slant inward diagonally. The three levels of the crepidoma are slightly domed in the center because to the eye purely horizontal lines would have appeared to dip in the middle.

## Heron retires

Joseph Heron, 62, retired November 1 from RIDOT’s Real Estate Division. He had worked in the DOT Appraisal Unit for 10 years, and had served as a Certified Real Estate Appriaser and Broker for several years.

## Memorial Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament

The RIDOT Memorial Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament was held in August. Despina Metakos of Traffic Engineering reports that, “Cliff Cherry and Beth Cerroni were the Most Valuable Players of the day. Thanks to them for all of their hard work.”

The tournament was a success, with 146 people playing. Participants came from South Dakota, Florida and Ohio to play as well as Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Fifteen scholarships were awarded. The scholarship recipients helped by volunteering all day at the tournament. The RIDOT Memorial Scholarship recipients this fall include:

Jennifer Alves	Erin Wilkes
Michael Piccoli	Stephanie Wilkes
Andrea Drager	Michael Clarence
Kori Lyn Oteau	Stephanie Soscia
Amy Letourneau	Kathryn Brady
Trisha Molloy	Jeffrey Thereault
Luke Doyle	Kristy Scallon
David Doyle III	



**A TRIP TO GREECE:** Despina Metakos, left, and Robert Rocchio, right, both of the Traffic Engineering section, enjoyed a visit to the Parthenon this summer.

Pericles’ monument has survived in ruins, but his political dreams for Athens were never fulfilled. In 118 B.C. Philip II, King of Macedonia conquered all Greece, and Greece would not regain independence for over 2,000 years. As one nation after another invaded the country, the use and the perceived value of the Parthenon changed.

During a war, the Turks used it as an ammunition dump. In 1687, it blew up. By 1800 the romantic revival of European interest in its material past led to the looting of what remained of the Parthenon sculptures. Lord Elgin, British ambassador to the Turkish court, obtained permission to carry off the pedimental fragments - now called the Elgin Marbles - which then became the artistic nucleus of the British Museum in London.

**HE’S A FIRST!** Thomas Manuel, the first child of Bob Fura of Bridge Design and his wife Mary Ann, was born August 30, 2002, and weighed 7 lb., 10 oz. He’s seen here at six weeks old.



## Transportation *Digest*

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Contributors to this edition include Dana Alexander Nolf, Heidi Cote, Patricia Piccoli, Steven Kut, John Brownell, Lori Capaldi, Cynthia Levesque, Mark Felag, Marie Marcaccio, Despina Metakos, and Janet Moise.

## A summer adventure to remember



Yes, that's Malcolm Brownell of RIDOT Survey, with a 600 lb. Giant Bluefin Tuna. Malcolm assures us this is a real photo, not a digital photography trick, "Nope, no tricks there. That's a 600 lb. Giant Bluefin Tuna. Gotta love that fish! I went to Cape Cod and met up with my buddies on Midnight Rambler who are fishing out of Hyannis Harbor. We hooked up at 6:48 pm and got the fish in the boat at about 9:20 pm. Yeah, 2.5 hours of reelin'! Quite a thrill for me. Biggest fish I've ever boated. It was amazing, to say the least."



Coordinating this year's State Employee Charitable Appeal (SECA) at RIDOT are Kerrie Vizzacco, left, and John Martucci, right, of the Materials Section. The co-coordinators have been actively working on this year's campaign, and took it on as a challenge. "We wanted to show that State workers have a commitment to the community, and help make Rhode Island a better place to live and work," said Martucci. The campaign will officially end at the end of December.

*Printed on recycled paper*

*William D. Ankner, Ph.D.  
Director*



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